

Applicants : Edgar Bonifer et al.
Serial No. : 10/827,175
Page : 11

Remarks:

The amendments and remarks presented herein are believed to be fully responsive to the Final Office Action dated March 15, 2005.

Claims 2-28, 30-36 and 38-44 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 29 and 37 have been canceled herein without prejudice and claims 2-5, 7, 8, 13-16, 18, 23-26, 30, 36 and 38-41 have been amended as set forth above. The amendments are fully supported in the specification and drawings as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

Claims 7-12, 16, 18-22 and 37 were indicated as being directed toward allowable subject matter and as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have amended claims 7, 8, 16 and 18 to be in independent form, such that claims 7-12, 16 and 18-22 are now in condition for allowance.

DRAWING OBJECTIONS

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR §1.83(a) for failing to show the features claimed in claims 27-29 and 37. Applicants respectfully submit that the generally straight teeth extending laterally across the belt as set forth in claim 27 are shown in Figures 5 and 6, while the tooth formation set forth in claim 28 is also shown in Figures 5 and 6. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings with respect to claims 27 and 28 is respectfully requested. Applicants have canceled claims 29 and 37 without prejudice so as to obviate the objection to the drawings with respect to these claims.

Applicants : Edgar Bonifer et al.
Serial No. : 10/827,175
Page : 12

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have amended claim 14 to overcome this rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 14 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-6, 13, 14, 17, 23-25 and 38-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowman, U.S. Patent No. 3,934,707, in view of Jahns, U.S. Patent No. 5,058,727. Claims 1, 2 and 26-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowman, in view of Jahns, and further in view of Patrito, U.S. Patent No. 6,176,367. Claims 1, 15 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowman, in view of Jahns, and further in view of Wieser, U.S. Patent No. 3,870,140. Claims 1 and 30-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowman, in view of Jahns, and further in view of Folkes, U.S. Patent No. 3,666,085, and further in view of Mott, U.S. Patent No. 6,644,463. Claims 1 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowman, in view of Jahns, and further in view of Holmqvist, U.S. Patent No. 3,952,861.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). However, in order to expedite prosecution and allowance of the claims, and without acquiescing in the rejections in any way, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 29 and 37 without prejudice, so that the subject matter of these claims may be pursued in a continuation application in the future. Applicants have also amended dependent claims 2-5, 13, 15, 23-26, 30, 36 and 38-41 to be dependent on the allowable and now independent claims 7 and 16, such that claims 2-6, 13-15, 17, 23-28, 30-36 and 38-44 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-28, 30-36 and 38-44 remain pending in the application. Claims 2-5, 7, 8, 13-16, 18, 23-26, 30, 36 and 38-41 have been amended above and claims 1, 29 and 37 have been canceled herein without prejudice. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-28,

Applicants : Edgar Bonifer et al.
Serial No. : 10/827,175
Page : 13

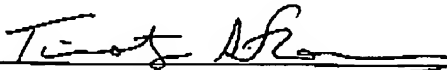
30-36 and 38-44 are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly and respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

EDGAR BONIFER ET AL.

By: Van Dyke, Gardner, Linn & Burkhardt, LLP

Date: May 16, 2005.


Timothy A. Flory
Registration No. 42 540
2851 Charlevoix Drive, S.E., Suite 207
P.O. Box 888695
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49588-8695
(616) 975-5500

MAN03 P-116
TAF:slg